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Examiner Thanh Ha T. Dang

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ORIGINAL TO

FOLLOW?

☐ YES ⊠ NO

RE:

TITLE:

ABSTRACT DATA LINKING AND JOINING INTERFACE

U.S. SERIAL NO.:

10/618,409

FILING DATE:

July 11, 2003

INVENTOR(S):

Richard D. Dettinger et al.

EXAMINER:

Thanh Ha T. Dang

GROUP ART UNIT:

2163

CONFIRMATION NO.:

5540

Attached for the above-referenced application is an APPEAL BRIEF.

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PATENT Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920030129US1 PS Ref. No.: IBMK30129

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

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In re Application of:

Richard D. Dettinger et al.

Serial No.: 10/618,409

Confirmation No.: 5540

Filed: July 11, 2003

For: ABSTRACT DATA LINKING

AND JOINING INTERFACE

Group Art Unit: 2163

Examiner:

Thanh Ha T. Dang

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 571-273-8300 to the attention of Examiner Thanh Ha T. Dang, on the date shown below:

December 28, 2005

Date Jon K. Stewa

APPEAL BRIEF

Applicants submit this Appeal Brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on appeal from the decision of the Examiner of Group Art Unit 2163 dated July 28, 2005, finally rejecting claims 1-5, 7-10 and 21-33. The final rejection of claims 21-33 is appealed. This Appeal Brief is believed to be timely since facsimile transmitted by the due date of December 28, 2005, as set by mailing a Notice of Appeal on October 28, 2005. Please charge the fee of \$500.00 for filing this brief to Deposit Account No. 09-0465 / ROC920030129US1.

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→ USPTO

Real Party in Interest

The present application has been assigned to International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, New York.

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Related Appeals and Interferences

Applicant asserts that no other appeals or interferences are known to the Applicant, the Applicant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

→ USPTO

Status of Claims

Claims 21-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-33 were originally presented in the application. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 21-33 stand finally rejected as discussed below. The final rejections of claims 21-33 are appealed. The pending claims are shown in the attached Claims Appendix.

→ USPTO

PATENT Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920030129US1 PS Ref. No.: IBMK30129

Status of Amendments

All claim amendments have been entered by the Examiner, including amendments to the claims proposed after the final rejection.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Claimed embodiments provide a method, apparatus and article of manufacture that provide an interface allowing users to specify how to link or join query result fields as part of a query composition process. See Application, ¶¶ 39, 54, 71-94, Abstract. The interface may display a set of input cells for user-selected logical result fields. See Application, ¶¶ 82-83. Users select the location of a logical result fields to specify how to link or join sets of data retrieved for the query result fields. See Application, ¶¶ 83-87.

One claimed embodiment (see e.g., claims 21-24) provides a method for building The method includes, providing a logical model to logically describe the physical fields, the logical model comprising logical fields corresponding to respective physical fields. See Application, ¶¶ 41-53 (physical view of database environment) and ¶¶ 54-70 (logical view of database environment). The method also includes providing a graphical user interface allowing user selection and arrangement of logical result fields selected from the logical model. See Application, ¶ 83, 84 Figure 14, 1400 (result field linking GUI and table 1404), Figures 15-16. Using the result field linking GUI, users specify a selection and a location, in the graphical user interface, of a first logical result field and a second logical field. See Id. The relative geometric relationship of the first and second logical result fields define at least a portion of an abstract query. See application, ¶ 84 ("The user determines the structure of the resulting query by selecting the relative position of the available result fields"). The method also includes transforming the abstract query into an executable query containing at least one combinatorial statement containing representations of the first and second logical result fields, and being generated as a result of the relative geometric relationship. See Application, ¶ 84, 89, Figures 3, 4, 16, 17.

Another claimed embodiment (see e.g., claims 25, 26), includes a computer readable medium containing a graphical user interface program configured to perform an operation for building abstract queries. The operation includes receiving user input specifying a selection and a location, in the graphical user interface, of a first logical PAGE 8/8 * RCVD AT 12/28/2005 9:26:39 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/25 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:7136234846 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-34